



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/

For Immediate Release
March 30, 2006

Contact: Robyn Heron
517-373-1801

Michigan Senate continues fight against methamphetamine

LANSING – The Michigan Senate approved legislation this week to combat the increase in methamphetamine use throughout the state, said Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood. The legislation addresses the growing threat Michigan communities face as methamphetamine use continues to rise.

“West Michigan has been inundated with meth labs and this sad epidemic is spreading,” Hardiman said. “The people making meth obviously have little concern for themselves or for children forced to live where meth is cooked. Authorities need to be able to act swiftly to protect kids.”

Hardiman sponsored Senate Bill 1116 as part of the package. His bill would require the Department of Human Services to partner with local law enforcement officials when a child has been exposed to meth.

The drug continues to be a growing threat as it is highly addictive and can be easily produced using chemicals and household products readily available. Additionally, cleaning up after a meth lab bust is difficult. The chemicals used are highly explosive and have an extreme toxicity level that can permanently contaminate houses, vehicles, or hotel rooms where the drug is manufactured. After a bust, these areas are treated as hazardous waste sites.

The legislation also protects children who possibly have been exposed to the dangerous toxins during the production process. While meth is “cooked,” fumes are released into the air that can cause allergies, asthma and colds, as well as learning disabilities and psychological problems. Many children have also been burned by the chemicals or equipment used to make the drug.

The multiple-bill package also would require:

- Statewide criteria that every community should follow in order for a home or other meth production site to be considered clean and ready for future occupancy;
- The Department of Environmental Quality to report the nature of environmental contamination materials found during meth lab busts to the state Legislature; and,
- A public website listing meth busts and indicating what sites have been cleaned.

The ingredients used to produce the highly-addictive drug are readily available through chemicals and a number of household products including over-the-counter cold medication. In 2005, the Legislature restricted the sale of all cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine, one of the main ingredients found in meth.

###